AMENDMENTS TO CLAIMS

- 1. (Previously presented) A method of identifying at least one predominant color in a digital image, the method comprising applying a detection rule to randomly-selected pixels in the image, the rule including testing specific colors among the randomly selected pixels to reduce the probability of at least one of a false-positive outcome and a false-negative outcome.
- 2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the detection rule is applied to a strip of randomly-selected pixels in the image.
- 3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the detection rule minimizes the probability of at least one of a false-positive outcome and a false-negative outcome.
- 4. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the probability of a false-positive outcome is the probability of identifying a color having $r_c < r_a$ as a predominant color, where r_c is the number of pixels in a sample region having a specific color divided by the total number of pixels in the sample region, and r_a is an acceptable ratio.
- 5. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the probability of a false-negative outcome is the probability of identifying a color having $r_c > r_d$ as a predominant color, where rc is the number of pixels in a sample region having a specific color divided by the total number of pixels in the sample region, and r_d is a desirable ratio.
- 6. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the detection rule is used to create a color occurrence list.

7. (Original) The method of claim 6, wherein the color list is created by testing a first sampling of pixels in the image, for each pixel in the sampling:

if a color vector of the pixel is in the list, incrementing a corresponding counter; and

if the color vector is not in the list, adding the color vector to the list and initializing a corresponding counter.

8. (Original) The method of claim 7, further comprising testing at least one additional sampling of pixels in the image, for each pixel of each sampling:

incrementing the corresponding counter if a color vector of the pixel is in the list.

- 9. (Original) The method of claim 8, wherein at the end of each additional sampling, all entries with counter $q < T_n$ are removed from the list.
- 10. (Original) The method of claim 8, wherein no additional samplings are tested and the list is finalized if the list is empty or all entries have a counter $q>U_n$, whereby all color vectors in the list are identified as the predominant colors.
- 11.(Original) The method of claim 6, wherein the color occurrence list is maintained as a sorted list.
- 12.(Original) The method of claim 6, wherein the color occurrence list is maintained as a hash table.
- 13. (Previously presented) Apparatus for identifying at least one predominant color in a digital image, the apparatus comprising a processor for applying a detection rule to randomly-selected pixels in the image; wherein the detection rule includes testing specific colors to reduce the probability of at least one of a false-positive outcome and a false-negative outcome.

- 14.(Original) The apparatus of claim 13, wherein the processor determines at least one predominant color for each strip of the image.
- 15. (Original) The apparatus of claim 13, wherein the detection rule minimizes the probability of at least one of a false-positive outcome and a false-negative outcome.
- 16. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 13, wherein the probability of a false-positive outcome is the probability of identifying a color having $r_c < r_a$ as a predominant color, where r_c is the number of pixels in a sample region having a specific color divided by the total number of pixels in the sample region, and r_a is an acceptable ratio.
- 17. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 13, wherein the probability of a false-negative outcome is the probability of identifying a color having $r_c > r_d$ as a predominant color, where r_c is the number of pixels in a sample region having a specific color divided by the total number of pixels in the sample region, and r_d is a desirable ratio.
- 18. (Original) The apparatus of claim 13, wherein the detection rule is used to create a color occurrence list.
- 19.(Original) The apparatus of claim 18, wherein the color list is created by testing a first sampling of pixels in the image, for each pixel in the sampling:

if a color vector of the pixel is in the list, incrementing a corresponding counter; and

if the color vector is not in the list, adding the color vector to the list and initializing a corresponding counter.

20. (Original) The apparatus of claim 19, further comprising testing at least one additional sampling of pixels in the image, for each pixel of each sampling:

incrementing the corresponding counter if a color vector of the pixel is in the list.

- 21.(Original) The apparatus of claim 20, wherein at the end of each additional sampling, all entries with counter $q < T_n$ are removed from the list.
- 22.(Original) The apparatus of claim 20, wherein no additional samplings are tested and the list is finalized if the list is empty or all entries have a counter $q>U_{n_1}$ whereby all color vectors in the list are identified as the predominant colors.
- 23. (Previously presented) An article for a processor, the article comprising memory encoded with code for instructing the processor to identify at least one predominant color in a digital image; wherein randomly-selected pixels in the image are tested to reduce the probability of at least one of a false-positive outcome and a false-negative outcome.